I would specially refer, in this connection, to the good work being done at Kayankulam, where the virulent disease affecting the cocoanut trees is being combated with considerable success. The ryots there have followed the lead given by the Agricultural Department with commendable zeal and perseverance. Local committees have been formed for the purpose of popularising the measures (for the eradication of the disease) introduced by the department. The Government have reason to hope that, if these measures are persisted in for another five or six years, this disease, which has been with us for over a quarter of a century, and which latterly has assumed in several places a virulent form, will be wholly a thing of the past.

11. **Other Industries.**—The information given in the report regarding the industries of the State, other than agriculture, is necessarily meagre, for the reason that no General Industrial Survey of the State has yet been done. This question, as also the connected question of Technical and Industrial Education, have been engaging the consideration of the Government for some time, but definite action has not yet been decided upon.

12. **Public Works.**—The outlay on Public Works during the year amounted to Rs. 25,65,000, of which the Chief Engineer spent Rs. 22,78,000, and the Maramat Department Rs. 2,87,000. The outlay incurred by the Chief Engineer in the previous year was Rs. 24,99,000, so that there was a reduction in the expenditure by him of nearly Rupees two and a quarter lakhs. The Public Works Department suffered much from short-handedness, during the year, and the entire executive staff had to be reorganised and strengthened. It is anticipated that, as a result of this action, the department would spend more in future years than it had been able to do in the past; also, with the stronger staff we now have, it should be possible to get a better return for our expenditure than hitherto. It is a matter for satisfaction that, even during 1086, notwithstanding the short-handedness of the department, the Chief Engineer succeeded in spending practically the full allotment for "Communications". The outlay on "Communications" rose from Rs. 8,12,000 in 1085 to Rs. 8,63,000 in 1086, *i. e.*, by more than half a lakh. There can be no doubt that, for a long time to come, the department will have to devote a great deal of its attention to the development of communications, especially in Middle and North Travancore. Referring to this subject, the Chief Engineer has written as follows to the Government :—"Looking to the future, I must say that, while I can foresee a very large "increase under 'Buildings' if the projects of the Darbar Physician, and in particular "of the Director of Public Instruction, are to be carried out, my opinion is that, for the "proper development of the country, improvements in 'Communications' are needed "more. The broken nature of the country calls for much work on roads and bridges, "and while on the one hand the extension of the road system, which has extended very "little during the last fifteen years, is absolutely necessary if the country is to develop, on "the other hand, more than two-thirds, to put it at a low figure, of the bridges on the "existing roads, will have to be renewed in the near future to satisfy the requirements "of the present day traffic. There is hardly a bridge, of those built before 1896, that "was ever intended to carry more than a country cart, so that, even if they are not "unsound, they are obsolete. The Forest Department must have traction engines, but "there is not one of our roads on which they can be used. A company is running "omnibuses to Nagercoil; but the Kuzhithurai bridge will have to be closed at an early "date for renewal. No heavy load can be taken along the Quilon-Shencotta or "Trivandrum-Shencotta roads, while the state of the bridges in the Trivandrum-Quilon

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"road is such that the Division Officer has to be specially addressed every time a large "motor goes over it. As regards the road extension, it is all but at a stand-still. A "few miles are opened every year; that is all. The road system of the country is, to "all intents and purposes, practically what it was when Mr. A. H. Jacob left, although "in the meantime the population has increased by thirty per cent and the revenue by "more, and land values have increased fourfold. As regards the canal system, its "condition is a reproach to the State. The *vallam* traffic is enormous and steamer "traffic is developing fast. But the boats are continually in difficulties. There should "be a channel four feet deep from Trivandrum to Cochin; the cost of dredging should "be met by tolls, which, falling as they ultimately would on the "merchandise, would be nothing in comparison to the benefit given. "It seems to me that expenditure on these lines would tend more to the "development and benefit of the State than money expended on buildings." The Government note that, at successive Sessions of the Assembly, the majority of the representations made, relate to the need for new roads or to the improvements necessary in the existing ones. There can be no doubt that a great deal has to be done in this direction, and the Members may rest assured that, if it is not possible to give effect to their wishes as rapidly as they probably desire, it is not on account of any want of appreciation by the Government of the needs of the country in the matter of communications, but it is because of the circumstance that, with the limited volume of spare money at our disposal and the limited staff whose services we can command, progress has necessarily to be somewhat slow.

13. **The State Railway.**—The amount paid by the Government to make up the guaranteed interest on the State Railway was Bh. Rs. 1,66,000, against Bh. Rs. 1,71,000 in the previous year. There can be no doubt that the traffic of the Railway is developing, though slowly, as will be evident from the fact that the guaranteed interest paid by the Government has been going down for a series of years :—

1080	Bh. Rs. 2,78,000.
1081	„ 2,19,000.
1082	„ 2,38,000.
1083	„ 1,78,000.
1084	„ 1,88,000.
1085	„ 1,71,000.
1086	„ 1,66,000.

It is anticipated that the cancellation of the export duty on timber, referred to by me *supra*, will give a stimulus to the traffic of that commodity going over the Railway.

His Highness' Government have not yet received the plans and estimates for the extension of the State Railway from Quilon to Trivandrum. The authorities concerned have been asked to expedite the same.

14. **Vaccination.**—There was a substantial increase in the volume of vaccination work, the total number of vaccinations performed rising from 1,58,834 to 1,74,631. By an amendment to the Town Improvement Committee Regulation, passed during the latter part of 1085, the Government took power to make vaccination compulsory in the towns governed by that Regulation. In exercise of that power,

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